

Remarks:

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), filed April 12, 2001.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Upon review of the application, need for certain clarification was noted. Accordingly, revision was made to page 21, line 24.

Claims 1-24 are now in the application. Claims 5-11, 23, and 24 are subject to examination. Claims 1-4 and 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration, being directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 5 and 8 have been amended and new claims 23 and 24 have been added. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages.

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ganton (US 6,130,702) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). In item 5 on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Haijima (US 5,456,175).

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes in claims 5 and 8 is found in the initially filed application, and more particularly, at page

22, lines 19-21 and page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 7 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Independent claim 5 calls for, inter alia, an imaging machine for setting an image on a magnetically attractable plate, containing a magnetic cylinder for magnetically holding the printing plate during the setting of an image thereon, and the magnetic cylinder having at least one magnet that magnetically attracts the printing plate and is either a permanent magnet or an electromagnet.

The Ganton reference discloses a method for the loading of unexposed printing plates onto an exposure device wherein the plates 4 are loaded onto an imaging drum 13, located or registered by the mechanical edge 15, and clamped in place by a magnetic clamp 16. The clamp cooperatively interacts with the drum to secure the plate edge to the drum. The printing plate is made of aluminum, coated with a polymer layer 5.

Clearly, Ganton does not show a printing plate containing a material which can be attracted and held firmly in place magnetically while setting the image thereon as recited in claim 5 of the instant application. In Ganton, the printing plate 4 is made of aluminum and coated with a polymeric material 5. There is no material which can be attracted magnetically (see column 10 lines 10 et seq.). Also, it would not be obvious to use a

material which could be attracted magnetically instead of a polymeric coated aluminum material for the printing plate as disclosed in Ganton, because the magnet 16 adheres to the ferromagnetic drum 13 with the printing plate edge disposed between the drum and magnet, and not to the printing plate 4 (see column 3, lines 8-10).

The Haijima et al. reference discloses a printing sheet making and printing apparatus containing an arrangement for securing a printing sheet 1 onto a cylinder 30 for engraving of the printing sheet. As illustrated in Fig. 61, the sheet is secured in place by a printing sheet clamper 258 that presses against the periphery of the cylinder and is engaged to magnetically hold the sheet 1 in place by the magnetic attraction from the magnet 260 that is recessed in the periphery of the cylinder 30. The printing plate or sheet 1 is made of a thermoplastic epoxy resin, such as polyethylene-resin. There is no disclosure or suggestion to make the plate from a magnetically attractable material as claimed in the instant application, claim 5, and it would not be obvious to replace the thermoplastic resin with a magnetically attractable material because the clamper 258 is attracted by the separate magnet 260 and not the printing plate 1. See column 28, lines 3-6, for example.

Independent claim 23 recites that the imaging machine has a magnetic cylinder that has at least one magnet for firmly holding the printing plate in place, a registering system for aligning the

plate during the image setting process, and a clamping device that is separate from the magnet for firmly holding the plate in place.

Independent claim 24 recites, among other things, that the imaging machine includes a printing plate that is magnetically directly held in place relative to the magnetic cylinder during the setting of an image thereon.

In contrast to claim 23, neither Ganton nor Haijima et al. disclose a clamping device for firmly clamping the printing plate in place, in addition to a magnet for magnetically attracting the printing plate.

Neither Ganton nor Haijima et al. disclose a printing plate that is directly held in place by magnetic force between the magnetic cylinder and magnetically attractable printing plate as set forth in claim 24. The printing plate in each of these references is held indirectly by the magnetic force that is applied between a magnet associated with the cylinder or drum and an element disposed externally of the printing plate which cooperates with the magnet.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 23, or 24.

Claims 1, 23, and 24 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims 6-11 presently under

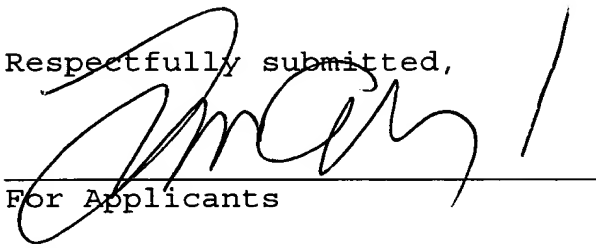
examination are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-11 and added claims 23 and 24 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

FDP:cgm

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

Reg. No.

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 21 has been amended as follows:

The magnetic cylinder 8 is fitted with magnets 35 to 40, which are arranged in rows parallel to the axis of the magnetic cylinder 8 and in rows extending in the circumferential direction of the magnetic cylinder 8. The magnets 35 to 40 are [powerful] permanent magnets, which are embedded in the circumferential surface of the magnetic cylinder 8 so that they terminate flush with this circumferential surface, the individual magnets 35 to 40 being separated from one another by longitudinal webs 41 and 42 and by transverse webs 43 and 44 belonging to the magnetic cylinder 8. The material of the magnets 35, 36 and 40 located closest to the clamping device 20 is more highly magnetized than the material of the magnets 37 to 39, which are the same size as one another, are arranged between the magnets 35, 36 and 40 and are distributed at constant intervals over the circumference of the magnetic cylinder 8. The magnetic field or the energy density and the magnetic attraction of each of the magnets 35, 36 and 40 which are immediately adjacent to the clamping device 20 and, for example, can be neodymium-iron-boron or samarium-cobalt magnets, is therefore greater than the magnetic field and the attraction of the other magnets 37 to 39 which are placed farther away from the clamping device 20 and which, for example, can be hard ferrite magnets.

In the Claims:

Claim 5. (Amended) An imaging machine for setting an image on a printing plate formed of a magnetically attractable material, the imaging machine comprising a magnetic cylinder for magnetically holding the printing plate firmly during the setting of an image thereon, said magnetic cylinder having at least a magnet for attracting the printing plate magnetically and being selected from the group consisting of permanent magnets and electromagnets.

Claim 8. (Amended) The imaging machine according to claim 5, wherein said magnet for said magnetic cylinder has at least one permanent magnet for magnetically attracting the printing plate.